

Forest Service Friends

September 1, 2011

The Pacific Southwest Region of the Forest Service just received a small planning grant from the Federal Transit Administration under the Paul S. Sarbanes Transit in Parks (TRIP) Program to conduct some initial transit planning in central California. The TRIP program was established in 2009 to address the challenge of increasing vehicular congestion in and around national parks and other federal lands (a copy of the Federal Register Notice is attached). The program was formerly called the Alternative Transportation in Parks and Public Lands program (ATPPL). Participating federal agencies include the National Park Service, Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the Bureau of Reclamation. One of the five goals of the program is to "Ensure access to all, including persons with disabilities." As such, I want to make sure that our collective efforts here in California not only move toward conserving our precious public-land resources, but also address the barriers that California's underserved populations face in pursuing their outdoor-recreation preferences.

I want our planning to start here in the Bay Area and strategically move out other parts of central California.

Those of us in the Forest Service are at the beginning stages of implementing this planning grant; and in the name of promoting a "seamless-service" ethic among outdoor recreation service providers, I request your participation in this initial planning meeting on September 22, 2011, to discuss the possible implementation design of this grant.

At the initial planning meeting, I would like to achieve the following:

- Level the playing field among participants regarding the TRIP Program
- Discuss/develop the conceptual design for central California implementation
- Discuss social equity and environmental justice as it relates to grant implementation
- Identify complementary activities/initiatives that are currently underway
- Determine future partners/meetings

I know my outcomes are ambitious, but let's get as far as we can. I thought we'd start the meeting at 9:00 AM and end at 2:00 PM, including a working lunch from 12:00 -1:00 PM. Dr. Nina Roberts, Professor, San Francisco State, has offered a conference room for the meeting there at the university. In a separate email, I will send out directions and such. In the meantime, let me know if I've missed anyone for this initial meeting. I can be reached at my desk at 707.562.8844 or my mobile phone at 925.367.4208.

More soon, Trini